REMARKS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

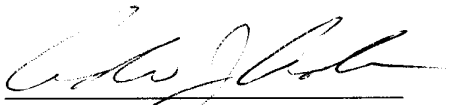
Claims 1-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner states the original disclosure does not describe the subject matter in a way that one skilled in the art could make the invention without performing undue experimentation to determine what inorganic material and an attached metal-ion sequestraint or functional group would produce a derivatized nanoparticle with some stability constant greater than 10^{10} with iron (III) at some unclaimed testing conditions given the level of unpredictability in the art.

While it is respectfully urged that selection of appropriate metal ion sequestering agents in order to provide a particular desired stability constant is well within the skill of the artisan in view of the various teachings of, e.g., "Critical Stability Constants", A. E. Martell and R. M. Smith, Vols. 1 - 4, Plenum, NY (1977), "Inorganic Chemistry in Biology and Medicine", Chapter 17, ACS Symposium Series, Washington, D.C. (1980), and by R. D. Hancock and A. E. Martell, Chem. Rev. vol. 89, p. 1875-1914 (1989) (each cited at page 9, lines 11-15 of the specification), claim 1 and 25 have been amended to advance prosecution to specifically refer to the use of a metal-ion sequestraint comprising an alpha amino carboxylate, a hydroxamate, or a catechol functional group. Support for such amendment may be found, e.g., in original claim 1 and page 12, lines 13-14 of the specification. While an absolute stability constant value is no longer required by claim or claim 15, it is clear from the values reported in Table I on page 10 of the specification that these classes of sequestrants in general provide high stability constants with iron(III) which are taught as desirable for compositions in accordance with the invention.

The invention further provides guidance as to a wide variety of inorganic materials which may be used as the inorganic nanoparticle materials at page 8, lines 18-30 of the specification, and techniquest to associate metal ion sequestrants with inorganic nanoparticles at pages 13-14 of the specification. The claims of the present application are accordingly believed to be directed towards a clearly enabled, as well as novel, invention. Reconsideration of this rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested. A prompt and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe any remaining issues may be resolved via a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' representative at the number below to discuss such issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.